

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

**FRANCISCO LÓPEZ**

**Hyper-Rainforest**

Photograph of the Peruvian jungle. Courtesy of the artist



# FRANCISCO LÓPEZ

## Hyper-Rainforest

October 10 - November 12, 2018

Lab 3

"Behind every image, something has disappeared. And that is precisely the source of its fascination. Behind virtual reality in all its forms [...] the real has disappeared. And that is what fascinates everyone. According to the official version, we worship the real and the reality principle, but – and this is the source of all the current suspense – is it, in fact, the real that we worship, or its disappearance?"  
Jean Baudrillard, *Why Hasn't Everything Already Disappeared?*

*Hyper-Rainforest* is an immersive sound installation created with original environmental recordings captured by the artist over a twenty-year period in jungles and rainforests around the world.

None of the sounds that are heard in this piece—even the strangest and most surprising—have been processed or manipulated. Unlike traditional notions of field recordings, this work does not intend to replicate or simulate the natural "reality" of the original places. Rather, with its decidedly compositional character, it develops an elaborate yet subtle air of hyperreality that suggests a virtual, self-sufficient world of sound, created exclusively with these original recordings, without any processing and without the use of additional instrumentals or sounds of any type.

This piece is not only about the recordings of the different soundscapes, but about the blending and interweaving of multiple layers simultaneously. In this manner, the sounds themselves acquire an ontological status of their own—utterly distinct from their original source—allowing for the creation of a new narrative in listening. The installation also seeks to highlight the properties and possibilities that these sounds hold to address complexities in musical composition such as tone, the proportion of frequencies, and tempo.



*Hyper-Rainforest* provides an immersive experience where traditional “tools of illusion,” such as the microphones and speakers typically used for simulations, are instead converted into instruments that generate an independent and expanded reality. This piece was originally commissioned by EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) in New York and debuted in a concert hall using a system of eighty speakers. At the Medellín Museum of Modern Art, *Hyper-Rainforest* is presented over a dual 5.1 speaker system (10 speakers and 2 subwoofers). The original recordings were captured from 1990 to 2010 in jungles and rainforests in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the United States, Gambia, Japan, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, and Venezuela.

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**Francisco López** (Madrid, Spain, 1964) is recognized world-wide as one of the most influential figures in experimental music and sound art. His career in the field of sound creation and work with environmental recordings spans a period of nearly forty years during which he built an absolutely personal and iconoclastic sounds universe based on a deep listening to the world. López has created hundreds of sound installations and projects with field recordings and has had performances in more than seventy countries in many of the most important international auditoriums, museums, galleries and festivals, such as: Darwin Fringe (Darwin, Australia), the Arts Festival (Brussels, Belgium), the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, PS1 Contemporary Art Center (MoMA), the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center – EMPAC – (USA), the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Center for Contemporary Art – CCA Kitakyushu – (Japan), the Buenos Aires Museum of Modern Art, the National Music Auditorium (Madrid), the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, the Reina Sofía Museum (Madrid), the Spanish Pavilion at the International Exhibition in Zaragoza, etc. His oeuvre includes both live and studio collaborations with hundreds of artists, and his works have been published by nearly four hundred record and publishing companies around the world. López has received honorable mentions at the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz in Austria on four occasions and was the winner in the category of sound anthology at the 2010 Qwartz Electronic Music Awards in France.



Image courtesy of the artist

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